



In Afghanistan, progress on security and democracy echo one another. Here, Spanish tactical air controllers shield themselves as a Chinook helicopter takes off on a joint U.S.-Spanish security mission from the Bala Murghab Forward Operating Base in Herat in September 2008.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and development echo one another. Mission success requires strong relationships with local communities. Here, Romanian soldiers engage Afghans in the southern part of the country in 2007. Romania runs a NATO Provincial Reconstruction team with the United States in Qalat, Zabol Province.



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Afghanistan depends on a capable army and police to provide for its own security. NATO trains, mentors and equips the Afghan National Army as it grows into a force of 122,000 by 2011. Here, Afghan soldiers and NATO troops prepare for a joint operation against insurgents near Kandahar City in November 2008.



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Improved security and clinic construction have extended basic medical care to about 80 percent of Afghans. NATO also provides medical care to local communities. Here, a Canadian Army medic examines a girl at a clinic run by Afghan, Canadian and American personnel in early 2008. Afghan infant mortality has fallen by more than a quarter since 2001.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and democracy echo one another. NATO trains, mentors and equips the Afghan National Army as it grows into a fighting force of 122,000 by 2011. Here, a joint French-American unit patrols with the Afghan National Army in eastern Afghanistan in early 2007.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and development echo one another. Mission success requires strong relationships with local communities. Here, an Afghan woman speaks with a Lithuanian soldier assigned to the NATO Provincial Reconstruction Team at Chagcharan in fall 2008. Lithuania has commanded the Chagcharan PRT since 2004.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and democracy echo one another. Here, British Royal Marine Commandos take part in Operation Sond Chara with other NATO forces and the Afghan National Army in January 2009. The operation set safe conditions for voter registration in Helmand Province, anticipating elections later this year.



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NATO's responsibilities in Afghanistan range from counterinsurgency to security training and civilian rescue in close cooperation with the Afghan government. Here, Dutch troops fly families to safety from a flooded district of Uruzgan Province in March 2007.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and development echo one another. NATO Provincial Reconstruction Teams harmonize those efforts. Here, Hungarian soldiers and Afghans check a bridge project in Baghlan Province in June 2007. The international community has built more than 4,000 km of roads since 2001, improving trade and transport across the country.



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Afghanistan depends on a capable army and police to provide for its own security. NATO trains and mentors Afghan national security forces to protect local communities. Here, Danish soldiers and Afghan National Police conduct a joint patrol near Feyzabad in late 2007.



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In Afghanistan, progress on security and development echo one another. Here, NATO soldiers patrol a hill over Kabul which until recently had only sporadic electricity. Improved infrastructure and a deal with Uzbekistan have boosted electricity to the capital. Investment in production has expanded power across the country.



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